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“We Are The United States”

“I have a dream, that my four little children will someday live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin...” These are the words Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered in his most famous speech near the Washington Monument many years ago in Washington, D.C. These words still remain strong in the hearts of many American citizens.

I feel that it is my duty to let the impact of Martin Luther King, Jr. live on today. Last summer, I went to a world conference in Rome and met with thousands of youth from around the world who are all trying to bring together a united world in peace. While I was there, I discovered that world peace can start with one person, regardless of race or social class. Although I am young, I understand that striving towards unity does not require huge actions performed in the public eye. I believe that this is something that Martin Luther King, Jr. tried to achieve throughout his life, and I want to permit this tradition of peace to extend to all children from my generation.

I attend a school that is filled with eight hundred students from many different ethnic groups: Vietnamese, African-Americans, Hispanics, and Europeans. I sit at a lunch table with African-Americans, I help someone who is Vietnamese with their homework, and I also hold the door for someone who is of European descent. These are all actions that can bring our country together and allow racism to die.

I have seen first-hand the result of prejudice towards an ethnic group as well as the beauty of strong friendship blossoming when we all reach out to one another,

(Janine Hair continued)

embracing our differences that make us the human race. A kind word, a small favor, or even a smile can help bring about a united world. Through our actions, all American citizens will realize that our differences are what make us one country-The United States of America.